In the Specification

Please amend the specification as set forth below with additions shown in underlining, and deletions shown in strikethrough or surrounded by double brackets:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 6 as follows:

As used herein, "taking an examination" or "taking an exam" includes being posed a set of one or more questions either orally or in writing, as part of an exam, [[,]] and may include providing a response, either orally or in writing, to one or more of the questions.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 10 as follows:

For example, as described below in relation to Act 159, the computer system may be configured such that, if the computer system is rebooted, execution of the exam-taking application is re-initiated. For example, in Act 159 of Fig. 8, a computer system parameter (i.e., flag) may be changed from its default value such that upon booting the computer system, the student exam-management application is automatically initiated. For one or more OSs, for example, a Windows-type OS, an auto-run key may be set to a first logical value in the Windows registry. As used herein, a "Windows-type" operating system (OS) is one of the OSs of the family of Microsoft Windows OSs, including Microsoft Windows 95, Microsoft Windows 98, Microsoft Windows ME, Microsoft Windows 2000, Microsoft Windows NT, and any other version of Microsoft Windows released by Microsoft Corp.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 22 as follows:

Further, as described below in relation to Act 224 of Fig. 14, as a result of exiting the exam-taking application, the computer system parameter (e.g., auto-run key) may be ~~cleared~~ set back to its original default value so that the exam management application is not initiated upon reboot.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 29 as follows:

If in Act 118, it is determined that the user did not select delete an exam file, or if its determined that the user selected to take an exam, then, a GUI may be provided to the user ~~use~~ to enable the user to enter information that specifies the exam to be taken.

Please add the following paragraphs beginning on page 11, line 32 as follows:

If a user selects the menu option to take an exam, a GUI may be displayed to inform the user that upon the exam-taking application being initiated, the user will have used one of the exams allotted to the user. The GUI may present to the user an option of proceeding to take the exam and using one of the allotted exams, or to not take the exam, and thus not exhaust one of the allotted exams.

If the user elects to proceed, for example, by selecting an appropriate button on the GUI, but the user has no more remaining allotted exams, the GUI may provide a message informing the user that no remaining exams are allotted to the user. The message also may indicate that the user must contact an administrator or access a predetermined network resource in order to request allotment of more exams.

Next, if the user has not exhausted her allotted exams, the user may be prompted for more information about the exam to be taken, from which the application to be executed may be determined.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 1 as follows:

In a following Act 204, the active desktop may be backed-up and disabled. A desktop essentially is a GUI that provides a user quicker access (e.g., shortcuts) to a variety of applications resident on the computer system. ~~Thereby, by~~ By disabling the desktop, access to these applications is denied to a user. However, after execution of the exam-management application, the user's desktop should be restored to its previous configuration. Accordingly, a backup of the desktop is first recorded by taking a snapshot of the desktop before disabling it. After the exam-management application is completed, this snapshot may be restored to the computer system as described below in relation to Act 228 of method 220.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 17 as follows:

In a next Act 208, any unauthorized processes executing on the computer system may be terminated. As used herein, a "process" is a named set of instructions executed on a computer system, for example, by a processor such as a microprocessor. Processes may include, *inter alia*, applications, programs, subsets of applications and programs, and processes initiated by an

application or program. An application and/or a program ~~similar to~~ may include one or more other processes.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 19 as follows:

One or more of the functions disabled as part of Act ~~10~~ 210 may prohibit ~~disabled as part Act 10 may prohibit~~ a user from initiating one or more processes that are not included on the unauthorized process list because they are utilized by the first application. Accordingly, disabling functions may prohibit a user from initiating one of these otherwise authorized processes.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 10 as follows:

Act 210 further may include disabling one or more of the function keys available on a keyboard. For example, the F12 key may be disabled so that a user may not execute the "save as" function and store data at a location (e.g., on a hard drive of the computer system, on a floppy disk or at a network address of a network on which the computer system resides) chosen by the user. Such data may include exam questions that other ~~student~~ students could use to cheat, and that the exam provider (e.g., professor) may regard as protected intellectual property, which the professor or a certification agency may aggressively attempt to protect.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 33 as follows:

Hooksdll also may include another function to be called to assist in encrypting or decrypting a function, which creates internal data for a user's Windows logon account. Hooksdll also may include a hook configured to intercept WM_NCCREATE message from the OS before the messages reaches the exam-taking application. Intercepting this message prevents the exam-taking application from creating a default window, for example, by executing Winpopu.exe. Hooksdll also may include a CBT function to intercept the HCBT_CREATEWND message and other low-level messages sent from the OS to the exam-taking application. This hook may be used to prevent a spell checker of the first application from being utilized by a user of the first application. Further, this hook also may be utilized to prevent a user from minimizing a window of the first application.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 11 as follows:

This timer functionality may be added to the first application by configuring a template for the application, as described below in more detail in relation to Act 142 of Fig. 8, and may be enabled by use of a hook.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 23 as follows:

Hooksdll also may include a hook to intercept any messages from the operating system to a destination window (e.g., a window of the first application) in response to a mouse event, for example, double clicking the left mouse button, right clicking the right mouse button, or moving the scroll wheel of the mouse. This hook may be configured to return a non-zero value such that the mouse message is not sent to the destination window. Further, the hook may be configured to determine the mouse position and, based on the mouse position, disable one or more mouse events. For example, this hook may be used to disable one or more of the mouse events listed below in Table 2.

Please amend the paragraphs beginning on page 21, line 16 as follows:

The customized template may be configured with one or more macros, where one or more of the macros may be configured to be executed as part of Act 152 described below. For example, ~~because~~ the customized template may be the template Tempdoc.doc of Appendix IV, written in the visual basic programming language. The macro Minitialize() of Tempdoc.doc may be configured to be executed as part of Act 152. Minitialize() may be configured to perform a variety of functions, for example, Minitialize() may be configured to disable the cancel (i.e., ESC) button, remove the custom dictionary provided by Microsoft Word, remove Word toolbars, and add a customized toolbar for executing Microsoft Word as part of the exam-taking application.

Minitialize() may be configured to ~~first~~ disable the cancel button first, because the cancel button, if pressed by a user, may interrupt the macro and prevent the macro from being completed. Therefore, disabling the cancel button first ensures that the other macros of the custom template cannot be interrupted.

Please amend the paragraphs beginning on page 23, line 12 as follows:

Act ~~160~~ 146 may include providing a GUI to a user of the computer system, for example, the GUI of Fig. 11. The GUI of Fig. 11 may be an instance of Microsoft Word customized with a custom template, for example, a customized template described above in relation to Act 142.

Any of a variety of GUIs may be provided as part of Act ~~160~~ 146. For example, the GUI of Fig. 11 also may include one or more tool bars, for example, one or more tool bars provided by a customized template such as Tempdoc.doc of Appendix IV.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 3 as follows:

A list of processes authorized to be executed on the computer system may be maintained, for example, as part of the method 100. Such a list may be maintained in any of a variety of ways, for example, by storing the list in one or more registers, by representing the list using one or more ~~abstraction~~ abstractions implemented using a programming language, or by storing the list in a file such as a text file.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 17 as follows:

For example, Act 152 may include loading the customized template described above in relation to Act 142, and launching one or more macros associated with the customized template, for example, ~~MI initialize~~ MInitialize of the customized template Tempdoc.doc of Appendix IV.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 12 as follows:

Next, in Act 160, the first application may be executed until an instruction is received to exit the first application. For example, a predetermined time limit may have expired such that the application is automatically exited, or alternatively, a student may initiate exiting the first application, for example, by selecting a particular menu option or typing in a particular string of characters.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 30, line 1 as follows:

Next, in ~~Acts~~ Act 226, any of the hooks installed when disabling functionality of the computer system, as described above in relation to Acts 210 of Fig. 9, may be de-installed.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 30, line 20 as follows:

As described above, while a user is taking an application using the exam-taking application, the exam file is periodically stored at a predetermined location for storing exam files for exams in progress. Accordingly, Act 104 may include retrieving the exam file from this predetermined location. Next, restoring execution of the exam-taking application may include performing Acts 141-146, 150-154 and Acts 158-164 of method 130, as described in more detail ~~below~~ above. Thus, if a user intentionally reboots the computer system in an effort to circumvent such acts and access unauthorized content, such acts are performed again to prevent this circumvention.

Please cancel the paragraphs beginning on page 31, line 11 as follows:

~~Accordingly, if a user selects the menu option to take an exam, a GUI may be displayed to inform the user that upon the exam-taking application being initiated, the user will have used one of the exams allotted to the user. The GUI may present to the user an option of proceeding to take the exam and using one of the allotted exams, or to not take the exam, and thus not exhaust one of the allotted exams.~~

~~If the user elects to proceed, for example, by selecting an appropriate button on the GUI, but the user has no more remaining allotted exams, the GUI may provide a message informing the user that no remaining exams are allotted to the user. The message also may indicate that the user must contact an administrator or access a predetermined network resource in order to request allotment of more exams.~~

~~Next, if the user has not exhausted her allotted exams, the user may be prompted for more information about the exam to be taken, from which the application to be executed may be determined.~~

~~Next, the first application may be executed, which may include providing the user with a GUI into which the user can enter text.~~

~~For example, the exam may be an exam that requires written answers, and the executed application may be Microsoft Word. Accordingly, the GUI may be a customized GUI of Microsoft Word as illustrated in Fig. 1.~~